

When your child is ready to take the next step, look for these other Phonics Readers from the Step into Reading® series.



Also look for Step into Reading Non-Fiction Books, Step into Reading Sticker Books, and Step into Reading Comic Readers.

Random House  New York
Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™ 

CREATED BY BRIT ALLCROFT

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Published in the United States by Random House Children's Books, a division of Penguin Random House LLC, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, and in Canada by Penguin Random House Canada Limited, Toronto. Boxed set originally published in a slightly different form by Random House Children's Books as

On Track with Phonics in 2010. Step into Reading, Random House, and the Random House colophon are registered trademarks of Penguin Random House LLC.

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Box ISBN 978-1-101-93726-6

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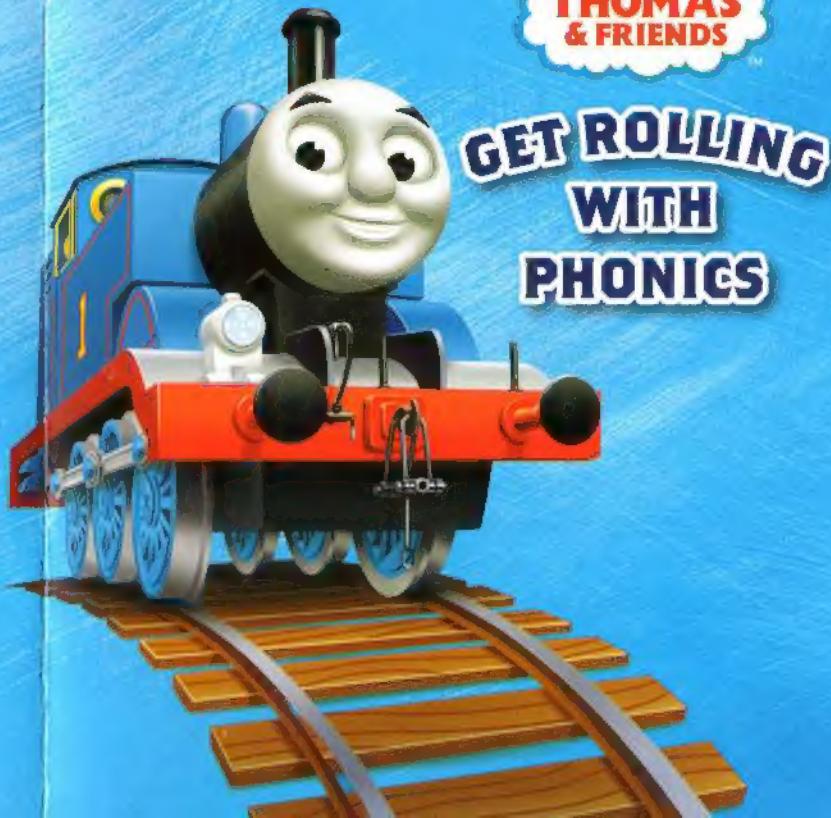
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PHONICS STEP INTO READING®

12-BOOK SET

THOMAS
& FRIENDS™

GET ROLLING
WITH
PHONICS



1

Welcome to *Get Rolling with Phonics* with Thomas & Friends!

Research shows that early instruction in phonics is the first step to reading success. Step into Reading introduces a fun and comprehensive phonics program designed to help kids learn to read, step by step, with Thomas and his friends!

Developed by a phonics expert, this boxed set includes twelve short books, each of which covers a specific range of phonics skills. New skills are introduced in each book.

Because building on each step is so important, the *Get Rolling with Phonics* series is designed so that books six and twelve act as review books for the words and skills already learned. Word by word and step by step, your child's confidence will grow as he or she masters each book in the set.

2

How the Program Works

Get Rolling with Phonics helps kids make the all-important connection between letters and sounds. Each of the twelve books in this boxed set introduces new phonics skills by combining sounds and word blends to form phonics words. For example, the sounds *p* and *b* are joined with word blends, such as *-et*, *-ig*, and *-ad*, to form new vocabulary words.

These books also introduce new sight words. Sight words are frequently used words your child will encounter in reading, such as *a*, *an*, *is*, and *the*. Like phonics words, sight words are repeated so that your child will come to recognize them.

The new phonics words and sight words are reinforced in later books, so your child is constantly reviewing and building on his or her newly acquired skills and vocabulary.

Get Rolling with Phonics with Thomas & Friends™ also includes story words—words that are not related to the featured phonics skills but that help move the story along.

3

How the Stories Work

Get *Rolling with Phonics* has been carefully planned so that your child's first phonics experience is natural and engaging. Each story is made up of sentences that follow predictable patterns. Sentence structures are often repeated, allowing children to anticipate and track the words on the page.

At the same time, the simple yet entertaining illustrations provide essential picture clues that help convey the meaning of the text. Children can predict key words in the story because they see the items in the pictures. The combination of predictable sentence patterns and straightforward, appealing art provides a kid-friendly framework that allows your child to progress through each book with increasing ease.

4

Before You Read

- **Find a good time to read with no distractions.** Turn off the television and the computer, put down your phone, and make sure the house is quiet. Snuggle into a comfortable chair with your child right next to you so you can both see the book clearly. Tell him or her that you're going to read a book together that's fun and easy to read.
- **Preview the book.** Before reading the book with your child, look through the pages and have your child try to identify what is happening in the pictures. Make sure he or she knows that there are no wrong answers. When you've previewed the entire book, ask your child what he or she thinks will happen in the story.
- **Personalize the story.** Ask your child what he or she knows about the topic. For instance, if the story is about eating, ask such questions as "Where do you go when you want to eat?" or "What do you like to eat?"

5

While You Read

- **Read through the story once without stopping.**
- **Read the story a second time.** This time, read skill words (words formed with the phonics skills listed in the front of the book) slowly, stretching each sound. For instance, read the word *mat* by saying “mmm-at.” As you read the word the “slow way,” run your finger under each letter in the word. Then reread the word the “fast way,” blending the sounds together as in normal speech. During this second reading, have your child point out pictured items that are mentioned in the text.
- **If there is time, read the story a third time.** Pause before reading skill words so your child has an opportunity to fill in the word for you. If there is a repetitive pattern in sentence structure, leave out the key word so your child can provide it. For example, let your child fill in the final word if the repeated sentence pattern is “Can the kid kick the ball? The kid can kick the ____.”

6

After You Read

- **Revisit your predictions.** Ask your child whether he or she correctly predicted what the story would be about. Discuss how the prediction and the outcome were the same and how they were different.
- **Ask open-ended questions.** Ask your child what his or her favorite part of the story was, and why. Give your child the opportunity to summarize the story in his or her own words.
- **Play with the words.** Work with your child to come up with new words he or she has built with the phonics skills from the book. For example, if the phonics skills include *-at*, ask your child what would be left after taking off the *mmm* in *mmm-at*. Then ask what the word would be if you added *rrr* (*rat*). Continue replacing beginning sounds until your child has built three new words.
- **Most importantly, have fun!** Whether you have time to read each story three times or can read it only once, your child will gain from the experience simply by reading the *Get Rolling with Phonics* stories with you!